The Macedonian Question and What It Means

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European diplomats refuse to believe that the Balkin war cloud is dispelled by the Sultan's acceptance of the terms laid down by the powers regarding Macedonia. In Vienna it is declared that the compliance of the Porte is only a move to gain time and that a tremendous European upheaval is still more than a possibility. The above halftone shows the Sultan of Turkey, his opponent Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, and the two generals of the Sultan's Imperial Army.

Ever since the Treaty of Berlin the condition of Macedonia has been a permanent source of unrest and trouble. Autonomy and practical independence such as has been given to most of the European provinces of the Sultan were almost impossible of attainment here, for the country is an odd mixture of jarring nationalities. It has Greeks, Bulgarians, Servians, Wallachians, Turks, and Mohammedans of non-Turkish race, not to mention many Jews. The Bulgarians are the most active, the Greeks perhaps the most numerous. Ever since the peace the Turkish rule in Macedonia has relapsed into its old inefficiency and fitful oppression. This has given opportunity to the famous Macedonian Committee, with a base in Bulgaria, to organize a system of political intrigue, involving much blackmailing and brigandage, with the plausible purpose of "liberating" Macedonia; that is to say, incorporating it with Bulgaria. The conspirators have been hardly discouraged by Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, who is generally credited with a burning desire to step into the inheritance of Philip and Alexander and become King of Macedonia. Last year there were one or two abortive little risings, worked rather by Bulgarians from over the border than by the peasantry. They were put down, but it was generally thought that the outbreak was only postponed till the spring.

This unrest and movement in the dangerous quarter of the Balkans naturally called for the attention of the guardian Powers, Russia and Austria, who had come some years ago to an agreement to maintain peace in the Balkan peninsula. Russia was supposed to be quieting Bulgaria and Austria soothing down Servia, the two rival claimants for the Macedonian inheritance. Greece is for the time out of the game owing to her overthrow in the late war, though historically and ethnologically her claim is quite as good as any.

The part played by Russia has of late been rather ambiguous. Russian envoys and soldiers appeared at the commemoration of the fight at the Shipka Pass, the turning point in the war of 1877-8. Count Ignatieff, the stormy petrel of the Near East, reappeared there, and the tone of the celebrations and speeches was far from pacific. But later on Count Lamsdorff, the Foreign Minister of Russia, followed Mr. Chamberlain's example by making a personal tour through the Balkin States, and ended up by interviews with Count Goluchowski at Vienna. The result of this conference was seen in a combined recommendation from the two Powers to the Sultan to introduce reforms into Macedonia, though the particulars of the reforms have not yet been disclosed. The Sultan at first seemed inclined to take the high hand, and make preparations for mobilizing his army. Exactly what has been done by all the parties concerned in the way of preparing for emergencies is hard to ascertain. It is confidently asserted and then denied that Austria has made ready for an advance from her southern frontier, that Bulgaria has bought up war material abroad and is getting together two divisions, that Russian troops are crowding down to the Black Sea, that two Turkish army corps are massing on the Bulgarian frontier, and steamers are chartered to bring over more soldiers from Asia.

Meanwhile, the Macedonian Committee, though it recently split into two, is far from being quiet. The former chief, Boris Sarafof, seems still to retain the practical direction of affairs, and if he can manage it, there is likely to be a disturbance in Macedonia. This will doubtless be put down by Turkish troops, regular and irregular, with the usual outrages, which will be enormously exaggerated in reports circulated by the Macedonian Committee. There may then be a movement in Bulgaria, just as there was in Servia before the last war, to come to the help of the insurgents. Bulgaria, if she plunges into war with Turkey, will probably be beaten, for, though the Bulgarians are better fighters than the Servians, the Turkish army is far more efficient than it was twenty-five years ago. German experts have not worked in vain. The question then arises, what part does Russia intend to play and what share will Austria take in the business? Behind this is the uncertainty of the action of Germany, who has been acquiring great influence in Turkey of late. The Macedonian question is the most entangled of those unsettled matters which still endanger the peace of the Near East. The Armenian question was comparatively simple. Macedonia is not a problem of one oppressed race, but of half a dozen, hating each other little less than they do their rulers. Again, the country is too near Constantinople to be lopped off as readily as was Bulgaria, Egypt, or Crete from the rule of the Porte.

The British control of Egypt and Cyprus has made the fate of Macedonia less vital to British statesmen than would have been the case thirty years ago; and France, in spite of her traditional interest in the Levant, is not likely to enter on any individual policy while her alliance with Russia continues. It is for Russia and Austria, therefore, to settle the question and quiet the unrest if they can, while Germany may help the cause of peace by inducing the Sultan to be more yielding, and the other Powers may be expected to acquiesce in any tolerable solution of the difficulty. Meanwhile the spring is coming and the mountains are becoming fit for the refuge of Macedonian patriots. Very much will depend on the events of the spring, and it is to be hoped that in Macedonia history will not repeat itself. One Bulgarian horror, one Plevna slaughter, is enought for a half-century.

Four Games That Are Full of Fun

Here is a game whose object is to have the players guess particulars about certain articles that are placed in view on a table, but without any clew to guide them. Each article is numbered, and corresponding numbers are written down the margin of sheets of paper, one sheet being given to each player. The players are allowed a certain time, say, five minutes, to examine the articles, and then they must write their guesses opposite the numbers. A prize should be offered, to make the game more interesting. Of course, some member of the company must know the particulars about each article, and he should receive the papers, and decide the contest.

The following articles are suggested, but many others might readily be used:

1. The length of a ball of twine.
2. The number of beans in a glass jar.
3. The exact length of a pole.
4. The number of seeds in an orange or an apple.
5. The quantity of water in a pail.
6. The denomination of a postage stamp, face down.
7. The number of pins in a cushion.
8. The number of pages in a book.
9. The number of cards in a pack from which some have been taken.
10. The contents of a certain boy's pocket.

Sport With Buttons.

Buttons are in extensive use in the sports of German children, with whom they form a sort of coinage, each sort having a stipulated exchangeable value. Traces of similar usage exist in the United States. A common New York game consists in throwing buttons. A line is drawn and a hole made about 12 feet off. The players toss their buttons, and whoever comes nearest the hole has the first shot. He endeavors to drive the buttons of the rest into the hole, striking them with the extended thumb by a movement of the whole hand, which is kept flat and stiff. When he misses, the next takes his turn, and so on. Whoever drives the adversary's button into the hole wins it.

Another game for two players is called "spans." The buttons are cast against the wall, and if a player's button falls within a span of the adversary's he may aim at it and win it by striking, as before.

How Do You Like It?

This is an excellent and amusing game for evening parties. It may be played by any number of persons. The company being seated, one of the party called the Stock is sent out of the room, and the company then agree upon some word which will bear more than one meaning. When the Stock comes back he or she asks each of the company in succession, "How do you like it?" One answers, "I like it hot"; another, "I like it cold"; another, "I like it old"; another, "I like it new." He then asks the company in succession again, "When do you like it?" One says, "At all times"; another, "Very seldom"; a third, "At dinner"; a fourth, "On the water"; a fifth, "On the land," etc. Last the Stock goes around and asks, "Where would you put it?" One answers, "I would put it up a chimney"; another, "I would throw it down a well"; a third, "I would hang it on a tree"; a fourth, "I would put it in a pudding." From these answers the Stock may guess the word chosen, but should he or she be unable to do so, a forfeit must be paid.

The Game of the Cat.

The "cat" is a little billet of wood, about four inches long and pointed at the ends, which is to be struck with a light stick. A player stands at a little distance and endeavors to throw this missile into a hole or circle previously made. Another stands over the circle and defends it with his stick. If the cat falls in the circle the batter is out. If, on the other hand, it falls out of the circle he has the right of making a stroke. Placing the cat within the circle he hits it on one end with his bat; and, as it bounds upward, endeavors to strike it as far away as possible. If the cat is caught he is out; otherwise he is entitled to score a number, proportioned to the distance which the cat has been struck, estimated in jumps or foot lengths. This score, however, is subject to a peculiar negotiation. The pitcher offers the batter a certain number of points—as, for example, five. If this is not accepted he raises his bid to eight, ten or as high as he thinks proper, but if his final offer is refused, the pitcher measures the distance (in jumps or length of the foot), and if he can accomplish it in a less number than that offered, the striker or his side lose that number of points; otherwise the number measured is scored. The game is an agreed number of hundreds. This game is played in Hindoostan, Italy and Germany.

TERSE TRIFLES.

In wine there is truth. There are also other ingredients that have no business there.

If phonographs were attached to coffins it would be found that the departed members of the fairer sex still talk of millinery.

Who wishes to light his fire with coal oil will never lack a match.

At the poker table even the worst men will pass.

Let your pose be repose.

There are angels merciful enough to wish to dry the devil's tears.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Charged with begging, a Halifax man advanced the excuse that he was "lame through vaccination."

Adrenalin, New Remedy For Heart Failure

New York, March 15.—Heart failure may at least be dealt with effectively. A man or woman stricken suddenly, collapsing without apparent reason, may be saved if properly treated with the proper remedy. At least such is the theory of Dr. George Crile, announced to the Boston Medical Society. He has been conducting some special experiments bearing upon the question of the sudden collapse of persons not suffering with heart disease (especially during surgical operations) and claims to have found a specific which will restore the circulation of the blood and bring the sufferer back to perfectly normal health in the substance called adrenalin, which is nothing but the secretions of the glands over the kidneys, extracted chemically.

The discovery of Dr. Crile is coincident with the announcement of Dr. Sajous of Philadelphia, that it is through the action of this secretion that the blood absorbs the oxygen from the air and transfers it to the tissues of the body.

Dr. Crile announces the efficacy of adrenalin in restoring the circulation of blood when for some reason it has ceased to flow through the veins and arteries as it should. But Dr Crile is revolutionary also in his study of "shock" and "collapse," two forms of sudden death hitherto attributed to heart failure. Dr. Crile has reached the conclusion that the vaso-motor center becomes exhausted in a complete shock. If, then, the shock be only a breakdown of the vaso-motor center, the stimulants usually administered must be considered. Strychnine was found of no value in forty-eight experiments. In fact, it was found that the after-effects of strychnine were to make the shock still greater. Nitro-glycerin was only temporary in its effect.

Dr. Crile then experimented with the saline solution, of which so much has been said and written, and found that it was purely a mechanical aid to circulation, and, while temporarily increasing the blood pressure, it finally causes death by interfering with respiration. On the other hand, it was found that in the normal animal in any degree of shock, adrenalin caused a marked, even an enormous, rise in the blood pressure.

A dying patient has been kept alive for nine hours by a continuous administering of adrenalin. Thus it appears that in adrenalin Dr. Crile has found a substance which will prevent many a patient about to die from shock beneath the surgeon's knife from so dying, and give surgeons a chance to overcome the momentary lack of vitality and restore the vital spark of one who would have otherwise died.

Dr. Crile also conducted some experiments dealing with what he terms "collapse," where there is a sudden fall of blood pressure from hemorrhage, from injuries to the vaso-motor center, or from failure of the heart to act. Here it is merely suspension of function, rather than exhaustion of centers, that must be dealt with. Here stimulants may be of some value, electric burning or the use of a saline solution. But suppose the animal is apparently dead, the heart suspended in operation. Blood pressure must then be controlled.

Some men think that they are doing a noble work when they drop a nic...l in the collection box each Sunday, but that is a small instalment to pay on a heavenly home.

Municipal Problems Involved In Placing of Cemeteries

Our barbarous custom of burial was initiated by the belief in the resurrection of the living body. The consequent natural desire to save it from destruction was strengthened by prejudice of early Christians against the Roman pyre. But even the wonderful ingenuity and lavish expenditure of the Egyptians have been unavailing to preserve mummies eternally, and if we could, it is questionable whether we would make the dress we leave behind after a slow death, the permanent habitation of our immortal souls. The prospect of remaining in a body tortured by disease or decrepit with senility is not alluring.

Yet we set aside valuable tracts of land for the stowage of such bodies; until, regardless of the sacred promise of their perpetual "rest," and inviolability, municipalities seize the room when needed and fling the remains upon a dung heap. Almost every page of the records of London and Paris contain examples of the desecration of abandoned graveyards, and there is hardly a city in the Old World that has not disturbed at least one of these resting places of their former inhabitants. In our towns of rapid growth, the cemetery of today becomes the heart of a metropolis tomorrow. The demolition of graveyards in New York and Boston has been a frequent occurrence until it fails to attract attention.

When the Colon cemetery of Havana became overcrowded the Cubans found it necessary to clear it of skulls, and promiscuously shoveled them into a common boneyard. It presented an aspect so ghastly that General Wood concluded to cover the pit and to reopen it only for the next overflow of skeletons, expected in about five years. In certain cemeteries in London corpses are buried in standing posture because there is no room left to lay them down. Bodies of the poor generally are packed over each other in tiers, and the trench is kept open until filled. In the poverty corner of Calvary cemetery this has been the customary treatment of the remains of paupers. Newtown, where Calvary is situated, harbors eighty corpses to every living inhabitant. The convenient villages of Corona, Elmhurst and Woodside, once parts of Newtown, which now are annexed to New York and constitute the geographical center of the enlarged city, might increase in population if it were not for the proximity of vast and dreary charnel fields.

A law relating to public health provided forty years ago that no grave be dug or opened south of Eighty-sixth street, and that no cemetery be opened in any part of the city and county of New York. This law should be enforced and applied, not to Greater New York alone, but to the territory within a radius of 100 miles around every populous town. People who insist on their inanimate bodies remaining inviolate should have them carried to a distance where they can neither inconvenience nor injure the living, who need the room and are natural heirs of the departed. Famous interamural cemeteries, like Mount Auburn (Boston), Greenwood (New York), and Laurel Hill (Philadelphia), could be transformed into admirable parks. Monuments of architectural beauty might remain undisturbed. Others might be replaced by trees, with suitable tablets to mark the spot of those upon whose dust they grow. The Turkish, loth to desecrate the grave of a Musulman, have adopted a similar custom, and thereby have made the cemeteries of Constantinople attractive to strangers. Two hundred city lots are now required to bury in the old-fashioned way the 70,000 persons that annually die in Greater New York. We probably could save more than 150 of these precious lots if ashes of the 70,000 were placed in urn cemeteries, preserved in niches of a Columborium, or strewn on the waves of a river. As cemeteries are exempt from taxation, the municipality would derive an income from the lots, which the living then would use, and from the improvements they would make upon them.

Another important advantage would accrue to every needy mourner, in saving him from useless extravagance. He incurs at present the expense of $50 at least for a plain funeral, land values in the suburbs of cities preclude a reduction in the cost of burial. The expense of cremation is only $25, and could be largely reduced if the custom became more general.

Let our intelligent population set the example, as it does in San Francisco, where almost 1,000 bodies are annually cremated, and the ignorant masses will be sure to follow. Considering the marvellous progress we have made in every other direction, it is strange that we have failed to adopt the most rational means for the disposition of dead bodies. We hardly are abreast of Homer's contemporaries, who realized that, however well a cemetery may be managed, corpses can do harm, but ashes never can. True religion does not and never can teach that it is godly to injure those we leave behind when we die.—Louis Wintmuller, in Municipal Affairs.

A DETESTABLE SWINDLE.

"I thought," the President angrily said, "that you told me this man whom I appointed postmaster at Squashville had a big family! I've just found out that he has only one child."

"I know," replied the guilty Congressman, "His wife weights over 200 pounds, and their daughter takes after her."—Chicago Record-Herald.

De Tanké—Say, Soakie, were you ever bitten by a snake? De Soake—Not on your life; throwing a fit is safer, and brings just as quick results."